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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 775



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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

ANGOLA

Briefs

EEC Food Grant 1
Portuguese Missionary Assassinated 1

CAPE VERDE

Briefs

OPEC Grant 2

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolinga Gives Priority to Economic Development
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 30 Apr 82)..... 3

CHAD

Real Conflict Said To Be Between Far Northern Factions
(Jacques Latremoliere; MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS,
12 Mar 82)..... 4

Briefs

Refugee Repatriation 7

CONGO

Briefs

Algerian Draft Agreement 8
Fifth URFC Congress 8

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Results of Meeting of Money Lenders in Geneva
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 30 Apr 82)..... 9

Briefs

French Investment Pact 11

- a -

[III - NE & A - 120 FOUO]

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ETHIOPIA		
Briefs		12
	Soviet Helicopter Downed	
GABON		
Briefs		13
	Premier Addresses National Assembly	13
	Progress on Trans-Gabonese Railroad	
GHANA		
	Voluntary 31st December Movement of Great Britain Formed (GNA, 10 May 82).....	14
GUINEA		
	Economic Shortcomings of Socialism Noted (Bernard Cazelles; MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 30 Apr 82)	15
GUINEA-BISSAU		
Briefs		19
	World Bank, Arab Port Financing	
MADAGASCAR		
Briefs		20
	Military Promotions	
MOZAMBIQUE		
Briefs		21
	GDR Agricultural Cooperation	
NAMIBIA		
	Officials Argue Over Territory's Economic State (David Reid; REUTER, 31 May 82)	22
NIGER		
	Journal Reports on BDRN's Aid to Development (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 19 Mar 82)	25
Briefs		27
	Youth Festival	27
	Agricultural, Stockraising Training Centers	
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE		
Briefs		28
	EEC Palm Plantation Financing	

- b -

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SENEGAL

Rural Development Project To Increase Food Production (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 30 Apr 82)	29
---	----

Briefs

French-Senegalese Cooperation Agreement	31
ENEL-SENELEC Cooperation	31
Loan to ICS	32
EDF Gum Plantations Loan	32
Munich Senegalese Week	32
University Opening Delayed	32
Higher Bread Prices	32

- c -

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

EEC FOOD GRANT--The EEC has granted two emergency food grants to Angola. Their total amount comes to 2.4 million ECU's [European Currency Unit]. The first (3,150 tons of grain, 350 tons of powdered milk and 200 tons of butterfat) is for the country's southern residents, who have had to flee from South African attacks. The second (2,695 tons of grain and 500 tons of butterfat) is for the 60,000 Namibian refugees who have been given shelter in camps in Angola and will be distributed through a charitable organization. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 638] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie, Paris 1982] 11915

PORTUGUESE MISSIONARY ASSASSINATED--In an action described by the authorities as "pure banditism," a Portuguese missionary, Father Manuel Lima, and 3 other persons of Angolan nationality, including a nun, were assassinated by machine gun fire on 3 February on a road on the outskirts of the capital. Funerals for the missionaries were held the following weekend in the presence of Mgr D. Eduardo Andre Muaca, archbishop of Luanda. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 638] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie, Paris 1982] 11915

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CAPE VERDE

BRIEFS

OPEC GRANT--The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will grant a \$1-million subsidy to Cape Verde, it was learned in Praia on 23 February. An agreement to this effect should be signed in Vienna sometime in March. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 680] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie, Paris 1982] 11915

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

KOLINGBA GIVES PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1158

[Text] According to a recent bulletin from the AFP in Bangui, President Kolingba has decided to take up the development battle in his country, closely linking the rural world into his economic recovery project.

Actually, in order to meet the challenge, the chief of state is first of all betting on the rural world, whose production is the basis of the Central African economy and represents the main resources of over 80 percent of the active population. Furthermore, they provide most Central African exports, from 60 to 77 percent between 1971 and 1977 and 54 percent in 1978.

This policy, the AFP notes, is in contrast with that of the preceding governments, which gave up specific actions in favor of developing rural regions, failing to maintain roads and trails, whence the impossibility of marketing local agricultural products. Moreover, the peasants were overwhelmed by many taxes, charges and various levies.

Eight months after he came to power, General Kolingba is determined to gradually reverse the trend. The imminent establishment of an agricultural credit fund and the increase in the price of cottonseed per kilogram (70 CFA francs instead of 60) illustrate the chief of state's determination to bring the peasant world into the recovery effort and improve the living conditions of a large part of the population.

On 16 April, the Central African chief of state launched the 1982-1983 economic campaign, speaking to over 20,000 persons gathered together in Bambari (see MARCHES TROPICAUX, 23 April 1982, p 1101). Furthermore, since 20 April, the ministers have been touring prefectures in order to make the people aware of the need to develop agriculture, which should make it possible to halt the rural exodus.

General Kolingba also believes that it is indispensable to proceed to a policy of decentralization and bring peasants into the decision-making process.

For the chief of state, the first goal of the economic recovery program consists of producing 30,000 tons of cottonseed during the 1982-1983 season, which, according to observers, is an ambitious objective.

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CHAD

REAL CONFLICT SAID TO BE BETWEEN FAR NORTHERN FACTIONS

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1896, 12 Mar 82 pp 717-718

[Article by Jacques Latremoliere: "Glimmers of Reconciliation in Chad?"]

[Text] The recent visit of the GUNT (Transitional National Union Government of Chad) foreign affairs minister to Paris has been mentioned only briefly despite his improvised press conference. Mr Acyl Ouled Ahmat was received at the offices on Rue Monsieur, but he also had other contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs outside its designated premises. It appears that the uncertainty of the times prompted both parties to exercise discretion, indeed to not allow themselves to be compromised.

This is regrettable, since many interesting questions could have been clarified with a less furtive visit, questions concerning the related problems created by the advance of the FAN (Northern Armed Forces) toward the west and GUNT's attitude, still firm or possibly softening, toward a possible agreement, in one form or another, with Mr Hissein Habre and his followers.

With regard to the first question, it is known that Oum-Hajer, on the so-called 13th-parallel road linking Njamena with Abeche via Ati, after being taken by government forces, has been recaptured by Mr Hissein Habre, who is still holding it at the present time. Located on the southern bank of a river whose waters flow only from July to September, it is the heart of the great Arab transhumance of the red and black Masiriyah, actually descendants of Amar and Azrouk, whose sympathies have been acquired as a result of blood ties with Mr Acyl Ouled Ahmat. It is not a city, just a village of less than 1,000 inhabitants, whose only permanent buildings are those of the government. It is also the crossroads of the 13th-parallel road and the trail which descends from the traditional grazing areas of Ouaddi Enn and Ouaddi Haddad to the more southerly region of Guera. The strategic value which it could have at first glance is reduced by the use of military 4-wheel-drive vehicles.

GUNT troops, all united under the command of an FAT (Chadian Armed Forces) officer, Alaffi, hold Mangalme, a small community about 100 km south of Oum-Hajer and the intersection of trails leading northeast to Abeche, southwest to Aboudeia, west to the provincial capital of Guera, Mongo, and beyond to Njamena via Bokoro. If it is possible to speak of a front on such shifting terrain, it would be located between Oum-Hajer and Mangalme at present.

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According to reports from Njamena, FAN forces number about 4,000 men with abundant automotive materiel and weapons, including recoilless guns and heavy machine guns in addition to individual arms. The supply of munitions appears to be no problem. A small number of foreign technicians have been reported among Hissein Habre's associates.

GUNT troops number more than 10,000 men. They have benefited from the recent logistic support provided by France in the form of vehicles, fuel, light and semiheavy arms, but the circumstances under which such support was dispensed, at a time when Mr Acyl Ouled Ahmat was falsely accused of attempting a coup d'etat against Mr Goukouni Oueddei, resulted in a large part of it being diverted to Kanem and Tibesti. What could be called the central army, the only one active, has thus unfortunately been deprived of fuel and munitions. Its cohesion, despite the single command established, is not comparable to that of its enemy either.

To complete this quick survey of battle lines, finally, we should remember the occupation, which is to end soon, of the three communities of Ati, Mongo and Moussoro by the inter-African armed forces, whose general staffs are located in Njamena.

For the time being, the problem is one of knowing whether FAN's advance toward the west has been checked by the effective opposition of GUNT troops based at Mangalme or whether their temporary halt is only because of the presence, with very political significance, of inter-African forces at Mongo and Ati. Njamena naturally defends the first interpretation. If the second one is correct, Hissein Habre's advance should resume shortly.

Concerning the second question mentioned above, i.e., the determination of GUNT, and particularly of its minister of foreign affairs, to reject any form of reconciliation with Hissein Habre and his supporters, a distinction should perhaps be made between the official version and the more realistic and less personalized remarks of Njamena officials.

The official version is that Hissein Habre and his two close associates, Adoum Meskin and Michel Froud*, have been sentenced to death by a people's court. But GUNT has also granted full and complete amnesty to all Chadian opponents and exiles. In the eyes of GUNT members, sitting down with Mr Hissein Habre around a negotiating table would mean a denial of justice for the Chadian people. It would contain the seed of a possible third civil war. On the other hand, it would be legally conceivable for Mr Hissein Habre and his two associates, after laying down their arms, to claim an amnesty from which they could benefit just like any other Chadian citizen. It is obvious that, presented in this blunt form, the hypothesis can only be popular. Mr Acyl Ouled Ahmat himself agrees.

But in Njamena it is believed that since the ultimate goal of all parties, without exception, is to bring about free elections making it possible to form a

*Concerning Mr Michel Froud, cf. MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 16 May 1980, p 1158.

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government in accord with the real wishes of the Chadian people, there would be no obstacle, if the status of Messrs Hissein Habre, Adoum Meskin and Michel Froud could be settled, even temporarily, to the FAN entering the election contest, which would provide a sovereign response to their possible participation in a permanent government. However precarious and delicate this solution appears to be to negotiate, the very fact that it has been mentioned constitutes a new factor, which the good offices of friendly nations and the OAU could perhaps strive to reinforce.

But there is another, deeper obstacle to real reconciliation. No one likes to talk about it except in private, although it is at the bottom of most Chadian hearts. As is too commonly thought abroad, it is not to be found in a religious conflict between the two Chads, that of the north and that of the south. Born in Mangalme in 1964, the social phenomenon initially called rebellion is explained by the failure, which had gone on for 50 years and which independence made it impossible to tolerate any longer, to recognize the legal and linguistic identity of the northern peoples. No one today is willing to pursue the war for fiscal or administrative reasons, since common suffering long ago led to an understanding of the need for improvements in this regard. Nothing beyond remedy separates the Chad of the 13th parallel from the Chad of cotton. To recall an example which has often been ignored, we should remember that in 1979 Mr Acyl Ouled Ahmat joined with Colonel Kamougue against the combined forces of Mr Hissein Habre and Mr Goukouni and that the intervention of his small army was decisive in the victory of Pala.

The real conflict today is no longer between the north and south, but between the factions of the far north, from which have emerged two military leaders whose customs, history and ethnic background make them more different from other Chadians than the average Frenchman is from the gypsies of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer The fact that the real conflict is limited to these two brother enemies does not mean that its settlement will be any easier. On the contrary, it is what constitutes its inextinguishable nature.

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CHAD

BRIEFS

REFUGEE REPATRIATION--On 12 March in Geneva, a spokesman from the UN High Commission on Refugees (HCR) announced that the operation for repatriation of Chadian refugees organized by this organization will be completed by the end of this month. Two hundred thousand Chadians who fled to Cameroon have already returned to their country. According to HCR estimates, between 30,000 and 40,000 Chadian refugees escaped by their own means to Nigeria where the chances of finding work are better than in the other countries bordering on Chad, and have been assembled in Camp Poli, situated 500 km south of the Chari River which marks the boundary between Chad and Cameroon. Camp Kousseri, where most refugees had been gathered on the Cameroonian bank of the Chari, will be closed at the end of the month. Starting on 1 April, only a small HCR team will remain in Ndjamena for several weeks in order to distribute \$5 million worth of food and tools to recently repatriated refugees. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897 p 799] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

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CONGO

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN DRAFT AGREEMENT--A protocol concerning cooperation in the field of education, training and scientific research was signed on 12 March between Congo and Algeria. The protocol involved inter-university exchanges, scientific research, the equivalence of diplomas between the two countries' universities and institutes, and the awarding of scholarships and training grants. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 801] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

FIFTH URFC CONGRESS--The fifth congress of the Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women (URFC) terminated its work on 13 March in Brazzaville, with the head of state, Colonel Sassou Nguesso, presiding. In a speech Colonel Nguesso expressed hope that the union "would tap all the energies of the women" by rallying the greatest possible number of women to it, including expatriates who so desire. According to a communique, Elise Therese Gammassa was reelected national president of the union. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 801] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

RESULTS OF MEETING OF MONEY LENDERS IN GENEVA

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1158

[Text] The conference of financial backers organized in Geneva by the UNDP on behalf of the reconstruction of Equatorial Guinea ended on 21 April, after 3 days of work. The conference was opened by President Obiang Nguema (see MARCHES TROPICAUX, 23 April 1982, p 1101).

According to a bulletin from the United Nations, the level of financing that may be attained will not be known until the end of the consultations begun between the organizations participating in the conference, donor countries and Equatorial Guinea.

The Malabo government had in fact drafted a reconstruction program spread out over 3 years and whose estimated cost was \$141 million. However, semi-official sources in Geneva indicated on 21 April that the figure might be around \$90 m \$90 million.

Twenty-nine countries participated in the conference: 12 industrialized countries, five Latin American and five Arab nations, two from East Europe and India. For their part, the United Nations was represented by seven of its specialized institutions: the ILO (International Labor Organization), the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), UNESCO, the WHO (World Health Organization), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNCTAD (UN Conference on Trade and Development) and UNIDO (UN Industrial Development Organization).

The conference held five plenary sessions, in the course of which it examined documents submitted by the government of Equatorial Guinea. It also set up a technical commission in charge of studying more in detail the integration of aid announced by countries and organizations invited so as to ensure completion of the government's reconstruction and development program, whose cost is an estimated \$141 million, including \$91 million for top priority projects.

The reconstruction and development program was unanimously approved for its quality by all countries and organizations participating in the conference, according to the official communique. Two delegations nevertheless thought that it was somewhat ambitious, given the current weakness of the country's administrative structures, which limit the ability to absorb foreign aid. The heads of the delegations from the Federal Republic of Germany, Egypt, the United States, France and Switzerland indicated the contributions which their

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governments could make to the program. Other delegation heads from participating countries indicated their support for the program, without thereby furnishing details on their future contributions to its execution. The head of the delegation from the Holy See also described measures taken so that Catholic assistance organizations might take responsibility, in their respective domains and in keeping with their possibilities, for overall development projects in Equatorial Guinea. For their part, delegation heads from the ADB [African Development Bank], BADEA [Arab Bank for African Economic Development], the World Bank, the EEC, FAD [International Fund for Agricultural Development], the IMF and the UNDP agreed to finance certain parts of the program corresponding to the mandates and priorities of their respective organizations. Finally, the specialized organizations and institutions in the UN system promised their technical aid in the implementation of projects for which they would serve as agencies of execution.

In the light of the promises made by the participating countries and organizations, chances of ensuring the financing of a large part of the program seem very high. However, one must await the end of consultations begun between the government of Equatorial Guinea and the countries and organizations participating in the conference in order to be able to advance with certainty the level of financing that might be attained. Some of these consultations will not be completed until the coming months.

So that the program for the reconstruction and development of Equatorial Guinea might benefit from the broadest possible support on the part of the international community and so that its implementation might be as effective and rapid as possible, the conference chose three mechanisms for coordination and follow-up. The first consists of holding a meeting of financial backers every month or every two months in Malabo, under the aegis of the government, particularly those backers represented locally. The purpose would be to have a regular review of financing and implementation of the program, whose results would be sent to all money lenders who pledged to contribute to completion of the program. The second mechanism deals with the evaluation of results obtained in the main sectors of the program and an examination of these results during special meetings of all backers active in the sector under study. Finally, it is planned to organize an overall conference toward the end of 1984 or beginning of 1985, for the purpose of evaluating the program in a way and place to be specified later, based on experience acquired during execution of the program. For its part, the government of Equatorial Guinea has pledged to rationalize and strengthen its structures of economic coordination and management so as to ensure completion of the program with the maximum effectiveness.

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

BRIEFS

FRENCH INVESTMENT PACT--An agreement concerning reciprocal encouragement and protection of investments was signed between France and Guinea on 3 March 1982 in Paris. This agreement, which will enable the French Government to guarantee French industrial, agricultural and commercial investments in Equatorial Guinea, will create the conditions for increased French participation in the development of this country, which has been sorely tried by 11 years of dictatorship and which has major economic potential, especially in the fields of mining, forestry and shipping. The delegation from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the signing of the agreements was headed by Luciano Edjang Mbo, commissioner of state for public works, housing, transport and urban affairs. The French delegation was headed by Jean-Claude Trichet, deputy secretary at Treasury headquarters. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 799] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

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ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

SOVIET HELICOPTER DOWNED--Beirut, 22 May (REUTER)--Guerrillas fighting the Ethiopian Government for the independence of Eritrea Province today said they had killed 100 government troops and wounded 200 in fighting this week. A statement issued here by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said the fighting was around the northern town of Keren, an important crossroads between the provincial capital of Asmara and the EPLF stronghold of Nakfa. The statement did not give EPLF casualties. On the road to Nakfa the guerrillas shot down a Soviet-made MI-24 helicopter gunship on 18 May, the EPLF said. [Text] [JN222037 London REUTER in English 2030 GMT 22 May 82]

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GABON

BRIEFS

PREMIER ADDRESSES NATIONAL ASSEMBLY--The first regular session of the Gabonese National Assembly was opened on 20 April by Prime Minister Leon Mebiame. In his address, following that of Assembly President Augustin Boumah, the prime minister said that despite many accomplishments, the most diverse complaints were still legion. He promised rapid measures and asked members of the government to prepare for the 1983 Budget starting now. Mebiame warned the Gabonese people against tribalistic tendencies that have been discerned recently and also warned foreigners. "We Gabonese know better than anyone else our own problems and our own demons. If we deliberately refrain from interfering in the affairs of others, we disapprove of others interfering in ours and assuming an attitude of distrust and commiseration regarding us that we find unacceptable, as if we were not yet capable of handling our own destiny. Are we then incompetents, ready to be recolonized?" [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1159] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11,464

PROGRESS ON TRANS-GABONESE RAILROAD--The Trans-Gabonese Railroad Office (OCTRA) predicts that by 31 December, the Trans-Gabonese will reach the Nke junction, 14 kilometers from Booue (kilometer marker 232). On 30 October, the Owendo-Ndjole-Ayem-La Lope artery will be open, with the La Lope station finished by 1 October and the Ayem station scheduled to go into service on 1 September. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1159] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11,464

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GHANA

VOLUNTARY 31ST DECEMBER MOVEMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN FORMED

AB101358 London GNA to GNA Accra in English 1345 GMT 10 May 82

[Text] London, 10 May (GNA)--The formation of a new voluntary organization--31st December Movement of Great Britain--to support the current Ghana revolution has been announced here.

According to the organisers, the main objectives of the movement are to propagate to Ghanaians resident here and the British public the aims of the revolution and draw attention to the lip-service democracy preached and practised by Ghanaian politicians since independence.

It will also draw attention to the appalling living conditions and social deprivation suffered by ordinary Ghanaians before the 31 December revolution led by Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC).

Officers of the new movement are Dr S.N. Ababio, chairman; Baffour Kwame Ohemeng-Ampofi, general secretary; Mrs Nana Anoba Yeboah, welfare officer and Mr Chris Saah and S. Donkor, executive members.

Addressing its inaugural meeting, Baffour Ohemeng-Ampofi urged the members to regard themselves as centres of organisation and information to dispel the wicked rumours circulating about Ghana in Britain.

He pointed out that before the 31 December revolution, Ghana needed a leader and not an administrator who would speak about jobs, privileges, education, housing, inequalities between the rich and the poor, and the PNDC had come to fulfill that role.

Mr Ohemeng-Ampofi wondered how Ghanaians were expected to be content with their way of life when the country's riches were shared by the few in positions of power while the poor were reduced to sub-human beings.

Dr Ababio also promised to do everything possible to help achieve the aims of the movement so that our children will never suffer the same fate again.

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GUINEA

ECONOMIC SHORTCOMINGS OF SOCIALISM NOTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82
pp 1135-1136

[Article by Bernard Cazelles]

[Excerpt] Since President Giscard d'Estaing's official visit to Conakry in December 1978, Guinea has in principle been embarking upon a period of openness, causing many French businessmen to go to Conakry at a very time when laborious negotiations have been going forward between the Guinean Government, on the one hand, and, on the other, the French Government and a number of French industrial and commercial companies.

Some of those now visiting Guinea knew it before 1958 and one of them, back from a brief trip to Conakry at the beginning of the year, has given us his impressions and reflections on the situation in Guinea.

One also finds here, and this is characteristic of the people of Guinea, a sense of hospitality, a kindness, casualness and spontaneity that are definitely the expression of a real joie de vivre. One can take a stroll without being accosted by beggars and other down-and-outs, although there are many street vendors on the corners. Whether out of forgetfulness or indulgence, the gardens of the future Conakry museum still boast the statue of Governor Ballay, in office in 1897. Except for the grandiose Palace of the People (built by the Chinese) and a few very rare projects of the same type, Conakry is the calm city of the 1950's, but with, in addition, the ravages of time, and they are countless.

Revolution

Also part of the decor of Conakry today are the signs posted at the intersections informing one, in their messages, that Conakry is still in the revolution: "Revolution is a definitive choice"; "Learn to make revolution by making revolution and not by discoursing on revolution"; "Real development begins with the discovery and use of the basic resource: awareness"; "No economic revolution without a cultural revolution"; and "The PDG (Democratic Party of Guinea): Energy and compass of the people's Revolution."

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Abortive Experiment

The system of staffing and organizing production, a system commonly called "socialism," does not seem to have succeeded anywhere in Guinea. In rural areas, peasants have gone back to their subsistence economy. What else are they to do when farm prices are so low that they cannot buy consumer goods on the parallel market and when there is nothing to buy on the official distribution circuit controlled by the government? The factories have no spare parts as a result of the lack of money and also of preventive maintenance. Production is disorganized, if not totally halted. One cannot find local beer in Conakry, but there is, on the other hand, a rather large choice of imported beers, at about \$4 a bottle! The poorly paid civil servants do put on a good front, declaring at all times -- especially when they answer the phone -- that they are "Ready for the revolution!" But most of them have grown unaccustomed to working, usually for lack of the slightest office equipment.

Failing to get the Guinean economy going, despite its enormous potential, the USSR has probably missed "the chance of its life." Soviet cooperation is now harshly denounced for having failed to keep its commitments and in addition, for having wondered what it could get out of Guinea rather than what it could contribute to it (the only thing for which the average person generally gives it credit is having marketed refrigerators that are the only ones able to withstand the variations in tension of the public electrical distribution system). The much greater effectiveness of Cuban cooperation has not been enough to take the tarnish off the shield of Eastern countries in Guinea.

Guinean-type socialism has not been successful in getting a foothold, either through the very merits of the production system it tried to set up or through the evidence of the virtues of cooperation with friendly countries coming to preach its example.

As in neighboring Liberia, Guinea's economy can only exist through the concessions, mainly in mining, granted to foreign interests, concessions that constitute extraterritorial enclaves on national soil. Guinea's economy also owes a great deal to business mixed with politics.

Triumph of *Affairisme*

Behind the official facade of the government organization, *affairisme* is the multitude of undeclared activities, what elsewhere is called "the unstructured sector." First of all, there are the minor trades that continue to make up the constant spectacle of the streets: tailors, mechanics, artisans, shopkeepers and, naturally, at night, bars and night clubs. *Affairisme* is also, one step higher, services rendered, the intervention that allows one to obtain an authorization or waiver, foreign exchange trafficking (U.S. \$1.00 now goes for 100 sylis on the parallel market, while the official exchange rate is 20, or about .26 French francs). And finally, *affairisme* is the exploitation of the official economy off which it lives as a parasite: goods diverted from the official circuit or stolen at the Conakry port for resale, at a greater profit, on the black market.

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The monthly wage of an average civil servant varies from 1,200 to 1,500 sylis, a sum that does not allow one to live decently in Conakry.. A recent survey showed that in order to make ends meet, a household budget had to be at least 9,000 sylis a month. It is definitely business dealings that make up the difference. It is affairisme that is responsible for the rather large number of private cars in the streets of Conakry. The government shuts its eyes to them: Economic misdeeds and misappropriations are not severely punished, moreover, if they are at all. Affairisme also eliminates a certain amount of political pressure, which would be even more difficult to stand without it. Furthermore, it helps too many people to be done away with! Unless the rise of that affairisme marks a transition to something new?

Signs of Opening

Are we witnessing a certain lessening of government control over the economy? One could believe this if one considers the convergence of a number of new elements which, in the opinion of all observers living in Conakry, are all "signs of an opening."

First of all, there is the right of private trade to establish itself. There is also the Investment Code promulgated in March 1980, through which the government wants to entice foreign capital to come develop the enormous potential of natural resources with which nature has endowed the country.

More than in the past, the official criticism of government companies seems to be oriented toward the questioning of the system. This was seen at the tenth session of the National Economic Conference, which began its work in July. One has but to read the reports on it published in the government newspaper HOROYA ("Freedom" in Malinke), which attributes the following remarks to the chief of state himself: "All units whose profitability is not assured will therefore simply be done away with." "Every unit will henceforth be solely responsible for its own results. Instead of having 1,000 workers, 500 of whom contribute nothing to the nation and are, on the contrary, supported by the nation, we should have only 500, but paid double. That is the principle we should follow: To each according to his worth." "Now then, if, by some magical decision, the Guinean Government should proclaim that you have instantly become the real owners of the units you head, you know that your very first reaction would be to get rid of all the unproductive workers and to immediately weigh all the useless burdens in order to assure your enterprise of profits in keeping with the means available to it." Without actually giving up the objectives of the revolution, does the statement not go so far as to ask the directors of the units in question to "act as if they were the real owners"?

There has also been an "opening" in the direction of the circulation of ideas. The recent establishment of CEDUST (University Scientific and Technical Documentation Center) would have been inconceivable only a few years ago. At the Center, French assistance has, since March 1981, made available to Guineans periodicals, monographs, basic reference works, encyclopedias, yearbooks, tables and documents of all kinds constituting veritable windows open onto a world of ideas long forbidden to them. The opening also means a better reception now given to foreign aid, when technical assistance was recently denounced in Conakry as an inadmissible form of paternalism. Finally, to come back to

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daily life, what a surprise to see at the airport a prominent Guinean photographer and his children waiting for their plane to depart, all under the indifferent eye of the policeman on duty! It is true that Guinea now says that it is anxious to promote tourism, but how far will that openness go?

Proper Choice

The dream of the chief of state was to replace the bonds of clan solidarity existing in precolonial Guinea with the cohesion of a people having discovered the meaning of government and to escape the seduction of individualism recommended by the colonial system. By being a "Jack of all trades," trying to control everything, the government ended up controlling only the nothingness of a planned economy that tried to be too ambitious, and the meaning of government now exists only in the fear still inspired by the very mention of a repressive system that long dealt very harshly with any political deviation. That is certainly not what Ahmed Sekou Toure wanted.

In 1958, he probably had no other choice: A new policy required an economy totally detached from the old system. Even the national businessmen were then deprived of the little economic power they had.

Some 23 years after, the government's economic power has not succeeded in fighting poverty everywhere and has not even truly put the country to work. While freedom knocks at the door once again, will the man of 1958 know how to impose on those around him (and on himself) the right choice, the choice of an economy that allows profit for a large number but rejects the profiteering of a few, the choice of a government machine that would no longer be encumbered by an ineffective bureaucracy, the choice of concerted, harmonious action of private and public, national and foreign interests, for an economic development that offers immense prospects?

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GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK, ARAB PORT FINANCING--Guinea-Bissau has obtained from the World Bank and Arab financial institutions aid totaling \$37 million for construction of a new port at Bissau and secondary ports within the country, it was learned in Bissau on 24 February following a meeting of the respective financial backers. The total cost of the projects is estimated at \$48 million. The financing obtained is from the World Bank (\$14 million), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (\$10 million), the Kuwaiti Fund (\$10 million) and the OPEC Fund (\$3 million). Guinea-Bissau's own participation will be \$2.5 million. The cost of the new port of Bissau, \$23 million, will be covered by the Arab institutions, whereas the other works (secondary ports, signals, fishing wharf) and technical assistance for these projects will be financed by the World Bank. The studies on the port of Bissau have been assigned to a Dutch firm [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1895, 5 Mar 82 p 680] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie, Paris 1982] 11915

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MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

MILITARY PROMOTIONS--By virtue of Decree dated 23 April, 1982, colonels Edouard Rabeong, chairman of the Military Committee for Development, and Jean Rakotoarison, Army Chief of Staff, were promoted to the rank of brigadier general; Captain Gay Sibon, defense minister, was promoted to the rank of vice admiral. Now, along with the inspector general of the armed forces, General Roland Rabetafika, there are four general officers. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 May 82 p 1226] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982]

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

GDR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION--Under the agreements signed in 1979 between Mozambique and the GDR, an agricultural improvement project, involving 120,000 hectares, will be implemented: 80,000 hectares in the province of Manica, 20,000 hectares in the province of Niassa and 20,000 hectares in the province of Zambezia. These areas will be used to grow wheat, corn and soybeans. At present, 4,500 hectares have been cleared in the province of Manica and 8 East German engineers are making soil studies. The project will be started later, based on the results of the feasibility study, with Mozambique providing the space and labor and the GDR the technicians and machinery and also providing the training of Mozambican managers. The project's practical implementation involves the creation of about 15 mixed companies between Mozambique and the GDR. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 638] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie, Paris 1982] 11915

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NAMIBIA

OFFICIALS ARGUE OVER TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC STATE

AB319038 London REUTER in English 0853 GMT 31 May 82

[By David Reid]

[Text] Windhoek, Namibia, 31 May REUTER--A major talkingpoint in Namibia is a controversial speech by millionaire farmer Eric Lang accusing South Africa of using this disputed territory as a slave economy and paralysing its development.

Dirk Mudge, chairman of Namibia's ruling Ministerial Council, and also a millionaire farmer, has introduced a budget which reveals that South Africa will contribute 450 million rand (418 million dollars) for Namibia's battered economy.

"Few other governments in the world would have granted budgetary aid to this extent to another country while experiencing economic problems themselves," Mr Mudge said.

The contrasting statements by the two white Namibian leaders spotlight the ambivalent attitude to South Africa, which has ruled the former German colony for 62 years, the last 35 in defiance of most international opinion.

They also show the dilemma of internal leaders struggling with grave economic and political problems at a delicate phase of international efforts to work out an independence settlement which would end the 16-year-old bush war between South African-led troops and the black guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Mr Mudge told the National Assembly that the slump in the diamond industry--from which Namibia earns 40 per cent of its tax revenue--was the main reason for the territory's economic woes.

Last year diamonds yielded only 38 million rand (35 million dollars), 86 million rand (80 million dollars) below the figure expected. Diamond revenue this year was estimated at 35 million rand (32 million dollars).

Mr Mudge's budget included tax increases of five per cent on companies, excluding mining, and a 10 per cent increase in personal income tax to be paid through levies.

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Mr Mudge responded to attacks on his ruling multi-racial Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) administration by saying his budget showed parity had been achieved among Namibia's white, coloured (mixed race) and black population groups in the fields of education, health and social security.

"We have encountered a bad stretch of road," he told the assembly "but we should not despair."

In his speech to the influential German business interests group (Deutsche Interessengemeinschaft) here, Mr Land--described by one high administration official as a self-appointed ombudsman--blamed South Africa, some of the major mining companies and "home-grown politicians" for Namibia's current problems.

"The South African Government, certain multi-national interests, the United Nations, as well as local incompetence, inefficiency and-or corruption have either knowingly or unwittingly conspired to deprive us of a healthy economy and political stability," Mr Land said.

"South Africa has saddled us with an enormously complicated, bloated, inefficient and hideously expensive government system devoid of all sanity, has institutionalised tribalism and effectively led to the semi-paralysis of the political and economic development of the territory."

He condemned the current provisional internal government as a sham because, he said, South Africa's Administrator-General Danie Hough could abolish the Ministerial Council and the National Assembly at the stroke of a pen.

In his references to a "slave economy," Mr Lang cited the ailing fishing industry, preferential tax treatment for the giant Rossing Uranium Mine and lack of support for farming.

Mr Lang urged that Namibia should declare itself a neutral state after independence on the model of Switzerland, Austria or Sweden. "Opt out of the East-West conflict and escape the conflicts of Southern Africa."

Many politicians and businessmen privately agree that Mr Lang produced some telling arguments. Mr Mudge himself has been a frequent critic of Administrator-General Hough and some aspects of South African policy towards its neighbor.

Since Mr Lang's speech Mr Mudge's arch-rival Kosie Pretorius, leader of the National Party, has renewed his call for Mr Hough to take over the government and dissolve the Ministerial Council and the assembly pending the drafting of a new constitution.

Dr Johan Jones, Namibia's secretary for finance, rejected charges that Rossing Uranium Mines, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Britain's Rio Tinto Zinc, had evaded tax. He said Rossing had been allowed tax exemption until it had covered its investment costs and would start paying tax by the end of this year or early next year.

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Hugh Mortimer, director of Namibia's biggest local company with major interests in breweries, fisheries, cattle, hotels and supermarkets, said the ailing fishing industry was picking up thanks to a conservation programme to counter over-fishing.

He said one problem was that Soviet and European trawlers had been plundering the deep seas off Namibia, where fish were spawned, without observing any quotas.

Mr Mortimer said his company was showing confidence in the future by building a new brewery at a cost of 18 million rand (17 million dollars).

Harold Pupkewitz, outgoing president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries in Namibia, said in his annual report that the economic position was not nearly as bad as the prophets of doom maintained.

He said: "Higher productivity and greater liquidity are the two keys to survival and progress. Do not be put off by the ongoing political wrangle over the independence issue, which may be a process of years or months.

"Prepare to adapt to whatever may come either way is my advice. Watch the world economic trend and look carefully at the South Africa business scene. They are our Southern Cross in the economic heaven."

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NIGER

JOURNAL REPORTS ON BDRN'S AID TO DEVELOPMENT

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 793

[Text] At the time the Development Bank of the Republic of Niger (BDRN) was created in 1961, the country had only the services of a single commercial bank. Since then three new foreign banks have been established in Niger.

BDRN's original CFA 150 million in capital has gradually risen to CFA 2.5 billion through successive increases over the years.

Independently of local resources, which consist of client deposits, the bank has resorted to foreign aid in the form of long-term loans and lines of credit from different specialized financial institutions (Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, USAID, the African Development Bank, the French Bank of Foreign Trade, BNP [National Bank of Paris], Midland Bank, Inter-Union, and so on), which had risen to CFA 6.7 billion by the end of September 1980. For fiscal year 1980, BDRN's turnover totaled CFA 8.3 billion. The volume of client deposits, accounts payable at sight, deposit accounts and fixed deposit receipts represented CFA 36.6 billion as of 30 September 1980.

In comparison, the total amount of credits to the economy amounted to CFA 48.6 billion. The Nigerien state also benefited from CFA 10.1 billion in advances.

Moreover, the bank holds a portfolio of shares in the capital of 32 local enterprises, totaling CFA 1.1 billion.

BDRN has participated actively in the financing of industrial-type investments in major projects. This is how large medium- and long-term competitions were opened to uranium ore mining companies (Somaire, Cominak, SMTT [expansion unknown]), the concessionary company of the Tahoua-Arlit uranium road, and the Nigerien Coal Company (Conichar).

Financing was also granted for establishment of the Nigerien Brewery and a dry cell manufacturing plant for construction of hotels.

The state's actions were supported by prefinancing from the bank, especially with respect to agricultural and hydroponic development, road and airport infrastructures, modernization and expansion of the telecommunications network and water drilling programs, etc.

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Some 63.2 percent of BDRN's capital is distributed among the state (37 percent), public organizations (22 percent), and Nigerien private shareholders (4.2 percent), and 36.8 percent among financial institutions (Central Bank of the West African States, Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, German Development Company, Credit Lyonnais, the French Foreign Trade Bank, Tunisian Banking Company, the Tunisian Banking Union and so on) and foreign private shareholders, who represent 1.4 percent.

The board of directors is presided over by Minister of Finance Moussa Tondi, a senior officer of the Quartermaster General's staff. It includes representatives of the Nigerien Treasury, public organizations and shareholding financial institutions. Amadou Nouhou handles the general management of the bank.

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NIGER

BRIEFS

YOUTH FESTIVAL--The seventh artistic, cultural and sports festival of Nigerien youth was held from 7 to 14 April in Agadez. Some 4,000 young people from the country's seven departments vied with one another for a week in music, sports and theater competition (in French and the national languages). The festival, like those that preceded it, Oumarou Mamane, Nigerien minister of youth, sports and culture, is a "rendez-vous of brotherhood, solidarity and national unity." It is the opportunity, created by the Supreme Military Council (CMS), in power since 1974, for young people of all social conditions and all ethnic and linguistic origins to come together, learn to know one another and "forge a common national conscience." [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1152] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11,464

AGRICULTURAL, STOCKRAISING TRAINING CENTERS--On 18 February the Nigerien Council of Ministers adopted two bills, providing for the creation in Kolo of a state public institution named the Practical Institute of Rural Development (IPDR) and a state public institution named the School for Stockraising Personnel (ECE). These two texts aim at improving structures for welcoming, recruiting and training rural development personnel. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 793] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

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SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

BRIEFS

EEC PALM PLANTATION FINANCING--Oilseed Crops (5th EDF [European Development Fund] subsidy of 2.108 million ECU's [European Currency Unit] and 4th EDF subsidy of 52,000 ECU's). The purpose of the project is, on one hand, to develop a 400-hectare plantation of selected oil palms and, on the other, to continue an experimental program intended mainly to produce seeds of highly productive hybrid coconut palms. The sites reserved are in the southeast and east coastal area of the island of Sao Tome. During a period of full yield, the plantation would provide annual production of about 1,360 tons of palm oil and 270 tons of palmetto palms. The production of vegetable material from coconut palms would make it possible to consider developing high-yield plantations in the near future. However, the first phase of the current project covers only the plantation and social measures for its workers; an oil mill will be built during the second phase while the social impact of the operation will be developed. The project will make possible a significant "import substitution" for the government and improved supply for consumers. [Excerpts] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1894, 26 Feb 82 p 604] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie, Paris 1982] 11915

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SENEGAL

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1148

[Text] Human resources are at the heart of a project which specialists at Michigan State University expect to carry out in cooperation with the government of Senegal. The project, which is ready to be launched, should make it possible to increase food production in Senegal over the next 3 to 5 years.

Cost of the project will be \$106.1 million and it will involve a program in five parts in the field of agriculture and livestock raising. Several multidisciplinary teams will engage in research on the six priority crops, long-term improvement of the economy, marketing and human resources, the evaluation of new technologies and more effective relations with extension services, improvements in relations with world technical assistance services and the reorganization and strengthening of the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (IGRA).

Credits will be supplied by the American Agency for International Development (U. S. AID), the International Development Association (IDA), subsidiary of the World Bank, the Senegalese and French governments, the Inter-State Committee To Fight the Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the International Institute for Research into Crops in Semi-Arid Tropical Regions and the West African Association for the Development of Rice Growing of the UN Interim Fund on Science and the Technology of Development.

Twenty-four Senegalese students will go to American universities to complete their master's degrees over a period of 2 1/2 years. They will return to Senegal to do research there and study problems encountered by their own farmers.

According to Eicher, the researchers trained through the project will have a high potential of effectiveness because their efforts will be aimed at studying problems encountered at the village levels and in decision-making. "Food production in itself cannot solve all problems," he noted, adding that every country should also try to increase the income of farmers. These two aspects are necessary in order to feed the population and engage in international trade.

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Specialists from the university have already gone to Senegal for preparatory visits and the team of research workers who will be involved in the project full time under Bingen will leave Michigan at the end of April for about 4 years.

Out of the 24 Senegalese students expected in the United States, 11 have already begun their work at Michigan State University and other institutions participating in the project.

Finally, it should be noted that the research workers will use a minicomputer to analyze data gathered in research at the village level.

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SENEGAL

BRIEFS

FRENCH-SENEGALESE COOPERATION AGREEMENT--Jean-Pierre Cot, French minister of cooperation, and Mamadou Tour, Senegalese minister of planning and cooperation, signed an agreement on 26 April, following the sixth meeting of the ministerial committee of French-Senegalese cooperation. This agreement defines the main cooperation operations for 1982, giving priority to actions that might lend support to the Senegalese recovery plan. Financial commitments are on the order of 4 billion CFA francs from the FAC (Aid and Cooperation Fund) and 20 billion CFA francs from the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, Cot said. Development projects chosen essentially concern: the rural sector (food and grain production in the Senegal River Valley, livestock raising and fishing in Casamance), the mining and industrial sector (phosphate and lignite research, feasibility studies for working of the iron and peat deposits) and the training and public health sectors. According to Cot, "Senegal is a partner with which we intend to establish particularly intense bonds." This applies to the aid to development and economic and financial solidarity, but also to general relations between the two nations in the political and cultural domains, Cot said, before emphasizing that "it is this whole ensemble of relations which President Mitterrand will have the opportunity to illustrate at the time of the trip he will make to Senegal in a month." In addition to the historical considerations, the French minister enumerated three additional reasons explaining France's predilection for Senegal: its experience as a pluralistic democracy, its "courageous economic recovery measures" and the fight against corruption. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1147] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11,464

ENEL-SENELEC COOPERATION--An agreement protocol was signed in Dakar on 17 April between the National Electric Power Agency of Italy (ENEL), represented by Marcello Inghilesi, its vice president, and the Senegalese Electric Power Distribution Company (SENELEC), represented by Louis Alexandrenne, chairman of the board. The signing was witnessed by Claudio Moreno, Italian ambassador to Senegal. The purpose of the protocol is to define areas in which cooperation between the two parties might come about. This cooperation will essentially consist of the supplying of services, technical advice in the fields of production, transport and the distribution of electric power, and the completion of studies concerning projects, the construction of new facilities and research. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1147] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11,464

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LOAN TO ICS--A bank loan of 10.5 billion CFA francs was recently granted to the Chemical Industries of Senegal (ICS). The loan, granted on advantageous conditions (duration: 13 years; rate of interest: 7.75 percent), will serve to finance the purchase of French equipment in order to complete an important phosphoric acid and fertilizer manufacturing project. This credit represents some 15 percent of the overall cost of the project. The consortium which grants the loan includes the French Foreign Trade Bank, the International Bank for West Africa and the National Bank of Paris. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1147] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11,464

EDF GUM PLANTATIONS LOAN--The European Development Fund (EDF) is going to grant 2.4 million ecus for the 2,500-hectare gum plantation in the Senegalese region of Podor. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1903, 30 Apr 82 p 1147] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1982] 11,464

MUNICH SENEGALESE WEEK--As part of its policy of promoting trade and, more particularly, of diversifying its trading partners, the Senegalese Foreign Trade Center (CSCE) is organizing a Senegalese Trade Week in Munich from 20 to 24 April 1982. In taking this initiative CSCE hopes to develop commercial exchanges between Senegal and the FRG by improving the balance of trade, which shows a chronic deficit to Senegal's detriment (more than CFA 7 billion in 1980). According to studies performed by CSCE, the German market has interesting prospects for many Senegalese products: small live birds, fresh and canned fish, fruit and vegetables, honey, animal feed, cashew nuts, peanut oil and byproducts, cotton, manure, calcium phosphates, clothing, gum arabic and fish meal. The week will include an exposition, an economic forum, fashion parties, tourist information, ballets, a food tasting and sale and a gastronomy week. A Senegalese mission will visit the FRG from 21 to 28 March to complete preparations for this week. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 788] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

UNIVERSITY OPENING DELAYED--Gaston Berger University in Saint Louis will begin operations in 1983 and not in October 1982, Djibril Sene, the Senegalese minister of higher education pointed out on 6 March. He explained that this postponement is due to the delays in completing construction of the university. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 788] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

HIGHER BREAD PRICES--The price of bread in Cape Verde increased on 8 March. A small loaf went from CFA 60 to CFA 70 and a large loaf from CFA 90 to CFA 110. Several combined factors explain this increase: first, the rise in international wheat prices and the reduction in the rate of EEC subsidy (from which Senegal imports almost all of this cereal). To these external factors are added the rise in freight rates, in customs duties from 0 to 15 percent, increasing production costs (salary, energy, sacks, maintenance equipment, and so on). And as a consequence of all these factors, there has been an approximately 42 percent rise in the cost of bread flour. As for bread itself, readjustment of the costs of other raw materials that go into breadmaking (yeast, salt, and so on) has been instituted. Wheat, however, is subject to price equalization. The Price Equalization and Stabilization Fund had been paying close to CFA 1 billion annually to subsidize this cereal. In order

for this equalization not to become oppressive, the state was obliged to accept this increase as part of the economic and financial recovery plan. These new prices affect Cape Verde. For the other regions, prices will have to make allowances for transport; they will be slightly higher than Cape Verde prices. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1897, 19 Mar 82 p 788] [COPYRIGHT: Rene Moreux et Cie Paris 1981] 9380

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